

Appl. No. 10/035,093

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 — EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Response dated September 16, 2004

Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An elastic laminate material comprising a thermoplastic elastic material and a first non-bonded staple fiber web layer, said non-bonded staple fiber web layer bonded to said thermoplastic elastic material, wherein said thermoplastic elastic material comprises elastic polyolefin or a blend of elastic polyolefin and styrenic block copolymer, and further wherein said thermoplastic elastic material comprises a multi-layer film comprising first and second external skin layers, each in an amount of from about 3 weight percent to about 20 weight percent of said multi-layer film, said first and second external skin layers comprising a bonding agent, and an interior layer of an elastic polymer in an amount of from about 60 weight percent to about 94 weight percent of the multi-layer film.
2. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 1 further comprising a second non-bonded staple fiber web layer bonded to the side of said thermoplastic elastic material opposite from said first web layer.
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 2 wherein said staple fibers comprise bicomponent binder fibers comprising a low melting polymeric component and a high melting polymeric component, said low melting polymeric component exposed on at least a portion of the outer surface of said binder fiber, and said low melting polymeric component being thermally compatible with said thermoplastic elastic material.

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9. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic elastic material comprises a breathable barrier film.
10. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 2 wherein said thermoplastic elastic material comprises a breathable barrier film.
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 1 wherein at least some of said staple fibers comprise a bonding agent.
17. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 2 wherein at least some of said staple fibers comprise a bonding agent.
18. (canceled)
19. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 1 wherein said non-bonded staple fiber web layer is a carded web layer.
20. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 2 wherein said first and second non-bonded staple fiber web layers each have a basis weight between about 1 gsm and about 34 gsm.
21. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 20 wherein said first and second non-bonded staple fiber web layers are carded web layers each having a basis weight of between about 18 gsm and about 34 gsm and each having a MD to CD orientation ratio of between about 2:1 and 40:1.

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22. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 20 wherein said first and second non-bonded staple fiber web layers each have a basis weight of about 10 gsm or less.
23. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 2 wherein said thermoplastic elastic material is apertured.
24. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 2 wherein said elastic laminate material is apertured.
25. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 2 wherein said thermoplastic elastic material has a basis weight between about 10 gsm and about 68 gsm.
26. (original) The elastic laminate material of Claim 2 wherein said staple fibers comprise polymers selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, nylon, rayon, acetates, and copolyesters.
27. (original) A personal care absorbent product comprising the elastic laminate material of Claim 1.
28. (original) A personal care absorbent product comprising the elastic laminate material of Claim 2.
29. (original) A medical care product comprising the elastic laminate material of Claim 2.
30. (original) A protective workwear garment comprising the elastic laminate material of Claim 2.

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31. (currently amended) A process for forming an elastic laminate material comprising the steps of:
- a) forming a first non-bonded staple fiber web layer;
 - b) unwinding a thermoplastic elastic material, said thermoplastic elastic material comprising a multi-layer film comprising first and second external skin layers, each in an amount of from about 3 weight percent to about 20 weight percent of said multi-layer film, said first and second external skin layers comprising a bonding agent, and an interior layer of an elastic polymer in an amount of from about 60 weight percent to about 94 weight percent of said multi-layer film.; and thereafter
 - c) forming said laminate by bonding said first non-bonded staple fiber web layer to said thermoplastic elastic material.
32. (original) The process of Claim 31 including the additional step a') of forming a second non-bonded staple fiber web layer and in step c) bonding said second web layer to the side of said thermoplastic elastic material opposite from said first web layer.
33. (original) The process of Claim 32 wherein said first and second non-bonded staple fiber webs are carded webs.

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34. (currently amended) A process for forming an elastic laminate material comprising the steps of:
- a) forming a first non-bonded staple fiber web layer;
 - b) extruding a thermoplastic elastic material, wherein said thermoplastic elastic material comprises a multi-layer film comprising first and second external skin layers, each in an amount of from about 3 weight percent to about 20 weight percent of said multi-layer film, said first and second external skin layers comprising a bonding agent, and an interior layer of an elastic polymer in an amount of from about 60 weight percent to about 94 weight percent of said multi-layer film; and thereafter
 - c) forming said laminate by bonding said first non-bonded staple fiber web layer to said thermoplastic elastic material while said thermoplastic elastic material remains in a partially molten state.
35. (original) The process of Claim 34 including the additional step a') of forming a second non-bonded staple fiber web layer and in step c) bonding said second web layer to the side of said thermoplastic elastic material opposite from said first web layer.
36. (original) The process of Claim 35 wherein said first and second non-bonded staple fiber webs are carded webs.